

by Dale Douglas and his wife. The idea for the foundation stemmed from the experience of Douglas' father, H. E. Douglas, Sr., who was a poor fieldworker who did not own a new pair of shoes until he was sixteen years old.

Nine years ago, Dale and his wife decided to turn their annual Christmas party into a catalyst for community service by asking their guests to bring a new pair of shoes to give to needy children within the community. The effort continued to grow with each subsequent year and has challenged an entire community.

The New Shoes for Little Feet Foundation works with area schools to collect the correct shoe sizes of needy students so that they can be matched with the right pair of shoes. The foundation has also partnered with The Colony Police Department to increase its outreach. Last year, the organization collected and distributed 377 new pairs of shoes to area schoolchildren.

It is with great honor that I stand here today to recognize the H. E. Douglas, Sr. Memorial New Shoes for Little Feet Foundation. It is the dedication that is personified by this organization that makes us certain that the future is bright for our nation and for our communities.

THE FRED F. HOLMES AWARD

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, the Fred F. Holmes award was established by the Veterans' Council of North Attleboro, Massachusetts, to recognize individuals who have had a positive effect on the lives of local veterans. On November 11, 2005, Veterans Day, it was my great pleasure to attend a ceremony honoring this year's recipient of the Holmes award, Mr. Joseph K. "Joey Irish" Clougherty.

Mr. Clougherty was born in Brookline, Massachusetts, in 1948. His family settled in South Boston, where he graduated from high school in 1966.

Mr. Clougherty enlisted in the United States Army in May 1967, and arrived in Vietnam later that November. Mr. Clougherty spent a year in Vietnam as part of the 5th Light Equipment Maintenance Company Long Binh and Headquarters Co. 185th Heavy Equipment Maintenance Battalion. After extending his stay in Vietnam for a total of twenty months, Mr. Clougherty returned to make his home in Dorchester, Massachusetts.

Mr. Clougherty spent ten years of service in the City of Boston Department of Public Works and Fire Department before eventually settling down in North Attleboro. Since 1995, Joe has served as the North Attleboro Assistant Veterans Agent, solving problems for the entire veteran community and their families.

Those who know Joe know he is a man of great compassion and loyalty, with an endless capacity for assisting those in need. This dedication is exemplified by the tremendous counseling and supportive services he has provided to the over 2,200 veterans of North Attleboro over the past decade.

The citizens of North Attleboro, and especially its veterans, are fortunate to have a person like Joe Clougherty in their midst. I know all my colleagues will join me in offering Mr. Clougherty our deep gratitude and heartfelt

congratulations as this year's recipient of the Fred F. Holmes award.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF PASTOR ADRIAN ROGERS

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, the Lord knew what he was doing when he sent us Adrian Rogers. And we're so very thankful for that gift.

Dr. Rogers lived a life of service. He lived a life of grace. And we cannot help but be inspired by his accomplishments. For 32 years he preached a message of love, hope, and salvation. His inspirational leadership was on display each Sunday as anyone of the 30,000 Bellevue Baptist Church members can tell you.

Dr. Rogers not only reached out into his community, he reached out across America and this world to spread God's message. His years at Bellevue spreading the Word to millions through his Love Worth Finding ministry and his leadership of the Southern Baptist Convention will be remembered in the lives he changed and the example he set.

He was a great, great shepherd and a humble servant.

Regardless of the titles and leadership positions, we all know that Pastor Rogers was most proud to be a loving husband, father, and grandfather. On this day our prayers are with his family whom he loved so much. We thank the Rogers family for sharing him with us for all these years.

We will miss Pastor Rogers but we are grateful for his life. I rise today to mark the passing and recognize the service of a beloved Tennessean.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3058

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I support the Conference Committee Report on the Transportation, Treasury, HUD, Judiciary Appropriations Act 2006, which provides essential funding for important infrastructure projects in Oregon and the rest of the nation. The bill provides \$18 million to complete the Interstate MAX light rail project, which has been an incredible success in North Portland. Additionally, \$15 million for a commuter rail project between Wilsonville and Beaverton will provide further transportation alternatives in the region and anchor important development projects in each of these suburban cities.

I was heartened to see the \$1.3 billion set aside for Amtrak. I am concerned, however, that the bill separates Amtrak's operations funding from its capital funding, essentially allowing the Department of Transportation to serve as a steward for Amtrak's capital money, handing out grants for approved projects. I am wary of this being yet another attempt by the administration to dismantle America's passenger rail system.

I am relieved to see that the Conference Committee did not eliminate funding for valuable for HUD programs such as Community Development Block Grants and the HOPE VI program. I am concerned, however, that many of these programs continue to be underfunded. The many individuals and families displaced by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita will increase demand for these valuable programs.

Despite these faults, the bill will fund important infrastructure improvements, create jobs, and make our communities safer, healthier and more economically secure.

DEFICIT REDUCTION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 4241, the Reconciliation Spending Cuts. This bill attempts to reduce the Republican-created budget deficit on the backs of those who can least afford it. H.R. 4241 does not reflect the values of Rhode Islanders and it takes from the poor to give tax cuts to the rich. As early as tomorrow, the same people who are voting to cut Medicaid, student loans, and food stamps will offer \$57 billion in additional tax cuts for the richest Americans.

While Republicans claim this bill is necessary to offset the costs incurred by Hurricane Katrina, their actions do not match their words. Months before Hurricane Katrina struck, Republicans in the House voted for a budget that cut \$15 billion more than the bill we are voting on today. The programs the Republicans are attempting to cut, like Medicaid and food stamps, are the very programs that benefit those who have been affected by the hurricanes. Not a single dollar cut in H.R. 4241 will actually go towards offsetting hurricane costs and reducing the deficit. Instead, today's cuts will fund the upcoming tax cut, but in typical Republican fashion, the spending cuts won't even cover the entire cost of the tax cuts they have planned.

While I am disappointed that we are voting on this bill at all, I am especially upset by a few specific provisions. First, this budget reconciliation will have a devastating impact on millions of low-income seniors, children, and people with disabilities across the country. This bill proposes billions in cuts to Medicaid, and Rhode Island alone will lose more than \$66 million. Ultimately, these cuts are paid for by raising prices for those on Medicaid. Imposing cost sharing requirements on people who simply can't afford them will not save money. Instead, these cuts will result in patients waiting longer to seek care, longer lines in our emergency rooms, and greater burdens on doctors and hospitals, who will struggle to provide for this population. In the end, we will all pay for this mistake in some form. The Medicaid program provides access to health services for more than 51 million Americans—most of whom are among the most vulnerable members of our society. Now is the time to strengthen America's safety net, not weaken it with arbitrary and harmful cuts.

I am also appalled by the message this bill sends to the millions of American students